

Appl. No. : 10/033,371
Filed : October 19, 2001

REMARKS

With this amendment, Claims 1-17 and 28-31 are canceled, Claim 24 is amended, and Claims 32 - 70 have been added. Claims 18-27 and 32 - 71 are thus presented for further Examination.

The title has been amended to reflect the subject matter of the claims elected in the Response to Restriction Requirement, filed on May 5, 2003.

The paragraph beginning at page 5, line 25 has been amended to reflect that there is no Figure 19C. Applicants submit that this error was a typographical error.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has also rejected Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim what is regarded as the invention.

Applicants have amended Claim 24 to be dependent on Claim 23, which includes antecedent basis for "the enlarged cross-section" in line 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indicated allowability of the subject matter of Claims 18-23 and 25-27, and Claim 24 if amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. Therefore, Claim 24 has been amended.

New Claims

As indicated above, Applicant has added new Claims 32 - 71, which Applicant believes read on the elected species. Support for these claims is found in the specification. Applicant submits that these new claims also include a unique combination of features not taught or suggested by the prior art. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

The applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims pursuant to statutory section 112, the reasons therefor, and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claim set are presented above. In light of these amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are not made for patentability purposes, do not narrow the claims, and it is believed that the claims would satisfy the statutory requirements for patentability without the entry of such amendments. Rather, these amendments have only been made to increase claim readability, to improve grammar, and to reduce the time and effort required of those in the art to clearly understand the scope of the claim language. Furthermore, any new claims presented above are of course intended to avoid the prior art, but are not intended as replacements or substitutes of any cancelled claims. They are simply additional specific statements of inventive concepts described in the application as originally filed.

If the Examiner has any questions which may be answered by telephone, he is invited to call the undersigned directly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: 

Jennifer Hayes
Registration No. 50,845
Agent of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(619) 235-8550